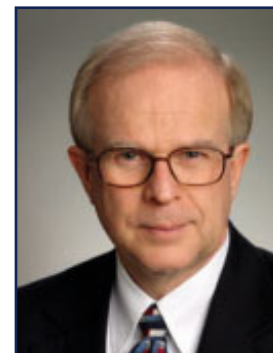


Preparing Our Work Force for 21st Century Careers

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business organization, the toughest, most important competition in today's global economy is the race for a talented work force. To win this race, companies, communities and our nation need contemporary education and immigration systems that help provide needed workers.

It has been 25 years since the report *A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform* was issued by President Ronald Reagan's National Commission on Excellence in Education. The Commission consisted of 18 members, drawn from the private sector, government and education. As implied by its title, the Commission's charter responded to Secretary of Education T.H. Bell's observation that the United State's educational system was failing to meet the national need for a competitive work force.



DR. ED BARLOW

While some progress has been made since 1983, national studies indicate more than 25 percent of American students fail to graduate from high school or within a traditional four-year time-span and many who do graduate require remedial education when they enter college or the modern work force. Since 1983, a knowledge-based economy has emerged both here and around the world, with the Internet also reshaping education, communication and commerce permanently.

We are fortunate in the Fargo Moorhead metropolitan area and surrounding region to have high-quality education systems that generally produce high-quality graduates. In fact, Minnesota and North Dakota are two of just 10 of the 50 United States that received a grade of A for academic achievement on the U.S. Chamber's Education Report Card.

To help our members, community and region better understand education, training and work force development issues and economic implications, we are conducting a work force development summit and community meeting on September 23 featuring futurist Dr. **Ed Barlow**.

The summit will focus on training and retaining a world-class work force and on what we can do in our community and region to link business and education, students and careers, sound public policy and economic opportunity in ways that can benefit all stakeholders in the future.

For more information about the summit, contact the Chamber at 218.233.1100. To learn more about Dr. Barlow, visit www.creatingthefuture.com.

ACCOUNTING IS NOT OUR SIDELINE

At Fiebigler, Swanson, West & Co., PLLP, Certified Public Accountants, we like being accountants. Always have. Always will.

Our professionals are constantly learning and applying the latest accounting practices. We're passionate about accounting and we have a flair for business. Not only can we prepare your profit and loss statement, but we have the knowledge to analyze it and recommend ways for you to improve your bottom line.

We'd like to be your accountants. Call us today.



Tax & Estate Planning • Tax Return Preparation • Financial Planning
Management Consultation • Financial Statement Services



FIEBIGER, SWANSON, WEST & CO., PLLP

2537 University Dr. S., Suite 200 • Fargo, ND 58103 • 701-280-2100
115 8th St. S. • Moorhead, MN 56560 • 218-236-8100
www.fsw-co.com

Since 1972

